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Press Release

Press Release Announcement - August 5, 2002 - For Immediate Use

Mink Pelt Production Up 10 Percent in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania mink pelt production in 2001 totaled 74,900 pelts, up 10 percent from 2000, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Average prices for mink pelts produced in Pennsylvania are not available.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2002 totaled 14,600, down 21 percent from the previous year. Thirty-seven percent of the females bred to produce kits are of the gunmetal color class.

United States' mink pelt production in 2001 totaled 2.57 million pelts, down 4 percent from 2000. Wisconsin, the major mink producing state, produced 672,000 pelts.

Mink pelts produced during the 2001 crop year were valued at \$85.9 million dollars, compared with \$90.6 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2001 crop year was \$33.50, down from \$34.00 in 2000.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2002 totaled 620,500, down 1 percent from the previous year. There were 324 mink farms producing pelts in 2001, down 7 percent from a year ago. Leading states were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 65 farms, and Minnesota with 36.